

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 513

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Alex van Aalten of the Cumberland Cove Community.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Alex van Aalten was one such exemplary individual who laid down his life for his country on April 20, 2007, during an heroic rescue mission of Dutch troops who were in peril; and

WHEREAS, born in Orlando, Florida, in 1985, Sgt. van Aalten was a 2004 graduate of Cookeville High School, where he served as the Brigade Commander for the Reserve Officer Training Corps; a black belt in karate, he rendered service as an instructor with Jack Scott United Karate Studio; and

WHEREAS, feeling a strong call to duty for his country and a passion to preserve its freedom, Sergeant. van Aalten joined the Army in June 2004; he entered basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and served as a gunner on a Humvee in Iraq in 2005; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Alex van Aalten was a Sergeant with the 82nd Airborne, 1-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, Delta Company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant. van Aalten was also deeply devoted to his family, to whom he will always remain a hero, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant. van Aalten enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Shana. He is further survived by his parents, Ed and Susan van Aalten; his brother, Dax van Aalten; his sister, Corporal. Nicole van Aalten; his grandfather, Herman Stokes; his grandmother, Willa van

Aalten; his father-in-law, David Sorrell, and his wife Kellie; and his mother-in-law, Connie Stinson, and her husband Tim; and

WHEREAS, Alex van Aalten was preceded in death by his grandmother, Ella May Fowler Stokes, and his grandfather, Edward van Aalten, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Alex van Aalten served with great bravery and ability and performed his duties with the utmost skill; Sergeant. van Aalten's service, and now his legacy, can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Alex van Aalten, reflecting upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and his ultimate sacrifice for his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Sergeant. van Aalten.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.